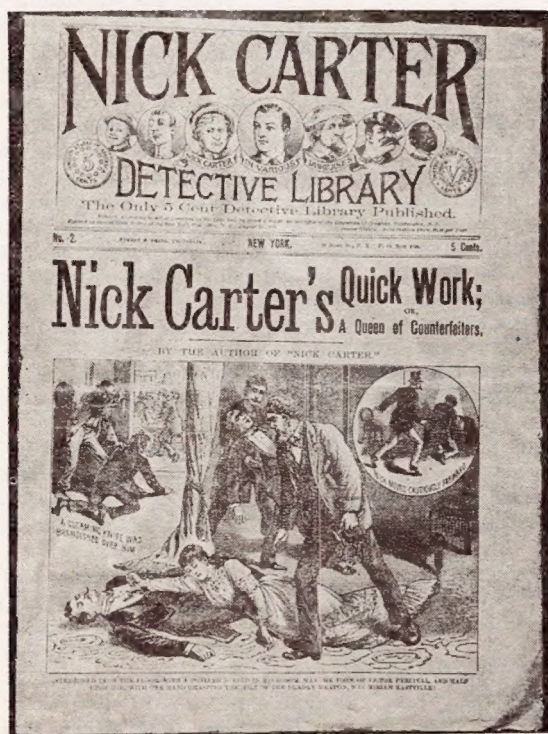


Vol. 30 No. 2

February 15, 1962

Whole No. 353



DIME NOVEL SKETCHES #30

NICK CARTER LIBRARY

The first publication devoted exclusively to Nick Carter. August 8, 1891, to December 19, 1896, black and white pictorial cover, 12x8½ inches with 16 pages. It was continued by the colored covered Nick Carter Weekly which continued the adventures of Nick Carter for some 800 additional weeks.

HON. WILLIAM ADAMS BRODRIBB BEADLE AUTHOR

by Denis R. Rogers

William Adams Brodrigg, born in London on May 27, 1809, was the eldest son of an English solicitor (at law to you) of the same name, who was ordered to emigrate to Van Diemen's Land (now Tasmania) in 1816, after administering an unlawful oath of secrecy to a gang of poachers, whose depredations ended with the murder of a gamekeeper. In Hobart Town the elder Brodrigg redeemed his good name, first as Clerk to the Judge-Advocate and later as Under Sheriff.

That provides the background to the formative years of the younger Brodrigg who, at the age of 27, crossed to the Australian mainland to form a cattle station in the Monaro district of New South Wales. Selling out two years later, he formed a sheep station on the Murrumbidgee, near Gundagai. His next venture was to acquire an interest, jointly with the Auditor-General, in a large pastoral property near Goulburn, the management of which fell to Brodrigg. However this property proved an unprofitable investment, so Brodrigg relinquished his interest and became manager of extensive properties in Monaro for a Mr. Bradley, in whose employ he remained until 1855.

During his residence near Goulburn

Brodrigg satisfied his adventurous spirit by leading an eight man expedition, known as the "Overlanders," to explore Gippsland. Another outlet for his energies about that time was the formation of a sheep, cattle and horse station on the Broken River, in the Port Phillip district, which he disposed of after about twelve months.

In 1855 Brodrigg crossed the Australian Alps with a herd of cattle, sheep and horses. After four months' travelling he settled on the Wanganella Run, along the Billabong (later renamed the Moulamein), having purchased the site in an unimproved state from the first occupant.

When the provisions of a Land Act, which became law in 1861, opened the way for an invasion of free selectors (voluntary immigrants as opposed to convicts), Brodrigg sold out and went to live in Melbourne. There he was elected Member for Brighton in the Legislative Assembly and remained in Parliament for about a year.

Upon resigning, Brodrigg paid a two year visit to the land of his birth. Although there is no record of a meeting between Brodrigg and Erastus Beadle, it seems probable that the two men did meet in London in 1862. Doubtless the enterprising young American publisher, recalling his own real estate venture in Nebraska during 1856, was strongly attracted by the energetic Australian pioneer, with his tales of exploration and his unbounded faith

DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

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Ads should be submitted by the 15th of the month in order to assure publication in the following month's issue.

in Australian settler life. Anyway Beadle's London branch published two pamphlets by Brodribb, extolling the potentialities of the Australian colonies (as they then were) for British emigrants.

On returning to New South Wales, Brodribb formed several stations in the Lachlan district, some of which he held for many years. During a second visit to England in 1874 Brodribb was elected a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society and a fellow of the Royal Colonial Institute: he was also active in helping to bring about certain reforms in the wool trade.

Brodribb returned to New South Wales towards the end of 1874 and held the following public offices thereafter: Member of the New South Wales Commission at the Paris International Exhibition (1877); Alderman of the Woolahara municipality and Mayor of Sydney (1878); Member of the Commission of the New South Wales international Exhibition (1879); Member for Wentworth in the Legislative Assembly (1880) and Member of the Legislative Council (1882).

Brodribb, who had been gazetted to the Commission of the Peace for the Colony of New South Wales in 1847 and, subsequently, to that of the Colony of Victoria, died on May 31, 1886. A river and a creek in Gippsland are named after him.

The first evidence of Brodribb as a Beadle author came to light shortly after the publication of "The House of Beadle & Adams" in 1950. It was a brief description of "The Great Australian Colonies" amongst other Beadle publications, which were advertised on the inside of the front wrapper of Beadle's American Library No. 20, published on October 1, 1862.

Nothing further was found until very recently. The writer of this article, whilst checking "An Australian Bibliography" (Charles Potter; Sydney; 1893) for a quite different purpose, spotted a reference to "The Great Australian Colonies" as amongst the holdings of The Free Public Library (now known as The Mitchell Library), Sydney, New South Wales.

An air letter produced a prompt reply. The pamphlet was still in existence and was published by Beadle. Moreover the Deputy Mitchell Librarian very kindly drew my attention to a second Brodribb pamphlet, which was also published by Beadle in 1862. It seems likely that there are no other surviving copies.

Unfortunately this chance discovery came too late for Professor Johannsen to include full details in Volume 3 of "The House of Beadle & Adams" and so, at his suggestion, this article on Brodribb and his pamphlets has been written.

The longer of the two Brodribb pamphlets might almost be said to have two titles, so dissimilar is the wording on the title page from that on the front wrapper. Following established practice I give the title page wording precedence:

A Plain Statement of Facts, addressed to the Small and Large Capitalists and the Laboring Classes in England and elsewhere, on the Great Capabilities and Natural Advantages of the Australian Colonies, particularly New South Wales and Victoria, for Emigration. By W. A. Brodribb, Esq., a Late Member of the Legislative Assembly of Victoria, and a Magistrate of Twelve Years' Standing in that Province and New South Wales. Beadle and Company, 44, Paternoster Row, London. 1862.

The slightly briefer title on the front wrapper reads as follows: The Great Australian Colonies; Their Capabilities & Advantages. Addressed to Small Capitalists and Labouring Classes in the Mother-Country. By W. A. Brodribb, Esq., a Late Member of the Legislative Assembly of Victoria. Beadle and Company, 44, Paternoster Row, London. 1862.

The text runs from pages (3)-32, under a half-title: The Australian Colonies; but with no running head. In it Mr. Brodribb claims that current hard times in Victoria provide an opportunity for cheap investment in land and livestock; explains the land regulations of Victoria and New South Wales, designed to assist immigrants

to acquire their own farms; and supports his arguments by a practical calculation in terms of money. Mr. Brodribb then goes on to discuss the prospects for wage earning immigrants, touching on assisted passage facilities provided by the Governments of the two Provinces for labourers and artisans wishing to settle in Australia and giving practical examples of the living to be made by work in the interior of the country. Reverting to small capitalists Mr. Brodribb then stresses the importance of choosing a suitable site for sheep farming and closes his pamphlet by quoting from Melbourne newspapers published in June 1862 about the new Victoria Land Laws, recent explorations into the hinterland and a proposed steamship service between England and Australia via the Cape of Good Hope.

The shorter pamphlet has two features which call for special mention. First is the omission of a title page, its place being taken by the following words, set out in nine lines of small print in the centre of the otherwise blank page:

Supposed Increase and Profit on £2000 invested in a Station in New South Wales, New Country, north of the Murray, Proprietor having Bank advance of £1,000 in addition; compiled by Mr. Brodribb, after twenty-six years' practical experience in the Australian colonies, and a late Member of the Legislative Assembly of Victoria, for the electrical district of Brighton.

The front wrapper, like that of the other pamphlet, has the title within an overall wavy rule frame, decorated with ornaments at the four corners. The title is:

A Calculation Showing the Profits of a Small Sheep-Walk on the Western Portion of New South Wales, called The Salt-Bush Country, by W. A. Brodribb, Esq. Beadle And Company, 125, Fleet Street, London, 1862.

This title page contains the other special feature, since it is the only English Beadle publication known to me bearing the address: 125, Fleet Street, London. Fleet Street and Pater-noster Row, while not far apart, are

certainly not adjacent and so this could not be another case of a side entrance address, as was used for the Frank Starr publications in New York.

The Calculation consists of a Sheep Station Account (Pages 4 & 5 to 8 & 9), with columns for Sheep (bought), Interest, Rent, etc., Wages, Plant, Incidental, Rations and (Total) on the debit side; and Sheep sold, Wool and (Total) on the credit side; a four year Summary (Pages 8 & 9); Assets and Liabilities (i.e., a Balance Sheet) (Pages 10 & 11); and a Sheep Station Stock Account (Pages 12 & 13), followed by a brief postscript from the author (Pages 14 & 15). Pages 1, 2 and 3 do not exist as such, but the three pages before the Sheep Station Account comprise the front wrapper, a page blank except for the printing data at its center and the "title page" described above. The Sheep Station Account is a reproduction in book-keeping format of the figures given in the longer pamphlet.

Both pamphlets were printed by J. Clayton & Co., 17, Bouverie Street, London, E. C. "The Plain Statement of Facts" sold for four pence, but there is no reference to a selling price on the 15 page pamphlet. "The Plain Statement" had a mauve wrapper, while that of "A Calculation" was the traditional dime novel buff in color. The back wrappers of both pamphlets were blank.

Two other works by Brodribb have been recorded, namely yet another pamphlet: "Result of Inquiries and Correspondence during the year 1874 in regard to the Wool Trade in London, the Continent of Europe, and the Colonies." (Melbourne; 1875; 8vo; 49 pages); and a book entitled: "Recollections of an Australian Squatter; or, Leaves from my Journal since 1835" (Sydney; 1883; 8vo; 239 pages).

The End

BACK NUMBERS

of Reckless Ralph's Dime Novel Roundup Nos. 1 to 237 for sale.

Ralph F. Cummings
161 Pleasant St., So. Grafton, Mass.

It is with deep and sincere regret that I announce the death of Dr. Albert Johannsen. Dr. Johannsen had a heart attack on October 31 and spent five weeks in the hospital before the final attack on January 11, 1962. He was author of "The House of Beadle and Adams," volume III of which is scheduled for publication next June by the University of Oklahoma press. He did more to bring dime novels to the attention of the present literary world than any other single individual. His passing is a great loss to the dime novel world.

NEWSY NEWS

What they're saying about the Bibliographic Listings: "I got your list of Boys of America and I sure like it."—Bob Frye; "I am pleased with these booklets, especially Golden Hours and Argosy. I oftener wondered how many numbers were printed in these and now I have the information."—George Sahr.

Mr. Ralph Gardner, 135 Central Park West, New York 23, announces the pub-

lication of his new list of rarest Algers. Mr. Gardner will be glad to send it free to Dime Novel Round-up members. His list has been popular with collectors and dealers and this is the first new list he has put together in some years. However, please send postage. No envelope is necessary. Incidentally Mr. Gardner's Alger collection has been written up in the January issue of "Friends" the General Motors magazine.

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BEADLE'S DIME LIBRARY. Nos. 66 194 200 205 210 220 247 — \$1.00 each.

BRAVE AND BOLD. Nos. 94 108 113 114 150 — \$1.00 each.

AMAZING STORIES. Vol. 1 No. 1 — April 1926 — \$5.00.

WEIRD TALES. May 1927—back cover missing. \$3.00.

POPULAR MECHANICS. Jan. 1912, Aug., Oct. 1912, May 1913 — 50c each.
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NICK CARTER STORIES. (1913-1915 rare) Nos. 34 62 69 73 77 81 111 113 123
156 157 160 — 75c each.

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334 347 357 360 373 380 389 489 506

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